



# Ellen Osborn's Fashion Letter

New York.—It's odd, if you think of it, that December should be the bud's month—that the death of the old year should herald the beginning of the new life of the young girl.

But so it has been for generations of buds and blossoms. From the first of December to the first of January the older women step back, postpone their entertainments and hold themselves in readiness to welcome the buds, that find in the chill of early winter the atmosphere to coax their flowering.

The old-fashioned crush, with its crowds of people tramping each other under foot as they tried to dance in a room not a quarter big enough, and with ten times too many poor flowers wilting, and a big band of music, and fifty or a hundred carriages tangled up outside—that blare of trumpets gave place to the simple debutante's tea, as the tea in its turn is now giving place to the more formal reception or musicale.

Whether or not a bride is always beautiful at her wedding, a bud is always pretty at her coming out, standing beside her mother and her mother's friends, wearing her white dress, holding her roses or chrysanthemums and surrounded by her court of other buds—girls whose debut has preceded hers by not more than a week, maybe.

They are shy girls who all summer have dreaded the ordeal and to whom not a pyramid of bouquets could be compensation, and there are girls almost too composed; prepared to enter society not with the tentative step and slow advance of one who feels an unaccustomed way, but by a single confident

tunic overdress edged also with quilting. A bertha of white chiffon, blue-spotted, is drawn about the shoulders and ties on the bust in a spreading bow.

Some of the debutantes' evening dresses are all white chiffon puffed and tied up with white ribbons. One such, very youthful in effect and dainty has the bodice, which blouses slightly, puffed bayadere-wise from the waist to the décolletage, while a graceful bertha arrangement is drawn about the shoulders. Another slightly more elaborate but still girlish is of a soft white Liberty satin with a narrow ruffle at the hem and three bands of chenille embroidery passing ribbonlike around the skirt and finishing in front with true lovers' knots and ends. The low bodice blouses somewhat and the V-shaped front is filled with lace and chenille.

One of the earliest debuts will be that of a girl who has the burden on her shoulders for keeping up certain family traditions, her mother and grandmother having both been famous belles. Following the modern idea which makes white cloth and white satin appropriate for grandmothers, while sweet 16 may appear quaintly decked in black velvet and jewels, the coming out dress, now in the modiste's hands, will be of white lace, but of lace so softened by draping over mousseline de sole as to lose its aggressive air of too great richness. The design of the costume is of the utmost simplicity: round waist, belt finish and round décolleté neck, with a touch or two of pink velvet for color.



FALL WRAPS.

dent and intuitive leap; but alike to brave and to timid the coming out is a "looking over by the pack"—an assortment of the belles who will reign as beauties and as favorites and of the nice little things who aren't counted. As a looking over, it is prepared for with circumspection.

The toilettes of many debutantes are chosen abroad with as much care as a bride's trousseau, since the French give more thought than other people to the arraying of the young girl. This autumn, however, a larger proportion than usual are being made in New York, patriotism being fashionable.

For an evening occasion white is at most invariably chosen and for an afternoon some light color. The afternoon is preferred by many people as offering the quieter, less ostentatious way of introducing a new little girl to her mother's circle. Some of the wealthy girls in New York have been presented on their coming out to less than 50 of the family intimates—two or three to receive with the mother, two or three to look after the tea—only a couple of servants showing. The more public appearances have come later with appropriate gorgingness. Some girls have been brought out at Newport in the summer or early autumn to escape a city function.

At an autumn tea a few weeks ago in a country colony the young girl who was honored wore pale yellow tulle that set off admirably her brilliant brunette coloring and made her sparkle like topaz in the dim old parlors. Folds of white chiffon were drawn across the bust and back, shirred chiffon filled in the gimp neck and transparent chiffon made the long sleeves. The belt and rosette were of white velvet; in the middle of the rosette was a topaz set in gold. The skirt was trimmed only with very narrow silk and chiffon ruffles. By way of contrast to the yellow tones a handful of deep red roses was carried.

Yet nearly all the coming out dresses are yet in preparation. One that looks as if it might be meant for some such dainty use is of white tulle embroidered with blue chenille moons. The skirt has an odd quilting of blue ribbon at the hem and is draped with a

A dress whose first appearance will be made at a Thanksgiving gathering which is to mark informally the coming out of a pretty Brooklyn girl is of white silk, with a deep flounce of white chiffon partly covering the skirt. The chiffon flounce itself is finished with three or four chiffon ruffles, full, narrow and half hidden by a lace flounce caught to the same heading. The bodice is of lace and chiffon over silk, with a band of chenille-embroidered silk at the neck.

The girl for whose debut a dance is given chooses for it the most diaphanous of robes. For the younger set this winter the favored ball dresses will be of tissue over tissue; all white or delicate colors peeping out through mists of other colors. One such costume just imported has a skirt of white silk, and over this one of gauzy net twinkling with silver sequins, and over this a gauze so airy as to be nothing more than cobweb. The low bodice with its short sleeves combines the same materials.

"Nowadays girls come out so much older than they used," said a woman who is looking forward to the blossoming of her own bud, a girl of 19 or thereabouts. "I came out at 15, and my sister was quite a grown-up young lady at 14; but then that was in New Orleans. In these times girls stay in the schoolroom till they're 20. And it's a good scheme if they're to marry so much older."

This lady's daughter is no older at 19 than some girls of the old regime must have been at 15, and she will look very young and very much of a beginner in the somewhat quaint dress that has been planned for her of white cloth with gimp neck of white chiffon and lattice work of white chenille covering the bodice. The skirt is to have a flounce of white acconion-plaited chiffon of a moderate width in front, but rounding up to the waist behind, and edged about with chenille. The sleeves will be long, close and chenille-trimmed. An afternoon early in December has been chosen, and while people are nibbling their biscuits or dawdling with their teaspoons a new society aspirant will be launched most unobtrusively. ELLEN OSBORN.

## Visiting Toilettes from Paris



### CHOOSING BRIDESMAIDS.

Prospective Brides Should Select Girls Who Walk Well with Gracefully-Poised Heads.

"In selecting bridesmaids," said she of the emerald and diamond ring to the New York Commercial Advertiser writer, "it is not beauty that counts so much as style and carriage. Most brides take a great deal of pride in them to show to the best advantage. It is very important that a bridesmaid should walk well. The wedding marches are more suited to grand opera stages than church aisles, and while Elsa's or Lucia's attendants can walk in gracefully to such music, the most graceful of girls is apt to sway and falter trying to keep time and step with the same strains. I've watched bridal processions and I've seen radiantly pretty girls lose all effect of their good looks by a hobbling walk. A bridesmaid should glide, not limp or hop. The beauty of a faultless frock and the stateliness of a picture hat vanish when the wearer is awkward and obviously ill at ease. The bride herself is helped by her long train, her drooping head and the leaning on her father's arm before and on her husband's after the ceremony, but the bridesmaid wears a short gown, carries her head erect, walks up and down beside another girl, and so has her own grace alone to depend upon. A girl who walks well, whose head is well-poised on her shoulders and whose hair arrangements well make a good appearance as a bridesmaid, and—well, all mine are like that."

### COWARDLY SPANIARDS.

The Displeased Conduct of the Vizcaya's Crew at the Battle of Santiago.

The contrast between the two nations stands out very clearly in connection with the Vizcaya, says Ira Nelson Hollis in the Atlantic. The torpedo boat Ericsson ran close alongside of her, and sent a small boat to take off all that were alive of her crew. A few boats from the Iowa assisted. The Vizcaya was on fire fore and aft; the ammunition on board was exploding, and the guns that had been left loaded were going off one after another in the intense heat, to say nothing of the proximity of the shore. The position of the little craft has been described as perilous in the extreme. Out men risked their lives repeatedly to help their fallen enemy; but no sooner were the Spaniards transferred to the deck of the Ericsson than they urged immediate withdrawal without regard to their comrades who had been left behind. To the honor of our navy, Lieut. Usher remained until every living being had been rescued from the burning ship. A similar scene was enacted around the two torpedo boat destroyers. It was a case of mad panic on the one side, and of perfect coolness on the other. One officer of the Vizcaya afterward stated on board the Iowa that they were obliged to close the ship ports on the disengaged side of the ship, to prevent the men from jumping overboard rather than face the American gun fire.

### CRIMES OF COOLIES.

The Low-Lived Mangroes Are as Cunning as Foxes and as Cowardly as Wolves.

They are a queer crowd, these coolies, whether on land or sea, says the Ludgate Magazine. Cunning as foxes and cowardly as wolves, they resemble the pariah dogs of their own cities in point of inability to hunt any prey save in packs. I heard of an instance where a gang of them, employed as navies in the cutting of a railway, killed their

overseer with shovels and fled into the bush. Nobody was ever hanged for the crime, because some 40 of them were in it—and that would have been rather a large consignment to condemn, even in the far east, where human life is so cheap.

There are 250,000 Chinese in Bangkok alone, and they do not appeal to one's cordial emotions—very much the contrary. And should this catch the eye of any intending visitor to the far east?

wisdom of venturing to spend a night on a Chinese junk without so much as a revolver to defend himself with. Occasionally a European is discovered by the marine police floating on the water with his throat cut. In such a case it is highly probable that he had been foolhardy, as I was. But different people are born to different ends, and the Chinese contempt of the European is frequently justified by facts.

### TALLEST IN THE MORNING.

By Evening Most People Have Shrunk Half an Inch—How Men Get Into the Army.

"The singular fact that people are about half an inch taller in the morning than they are in the afternoon has enabled many a fellow to slip into the army," said an officer who has seen a good deal of recruiting service. "Time and again when the examinations were being conducted at a tolerably early hour men have passed in my presence who were barely up to the regulation height, in fact, they were under it a shade, and the thickness of a cardboard would have resulted in throwing them out. I am perfectly confident that if these same men had been re-measured just before taps in the evening they would have fallen so far short that they would never by any possibility have been accepted. I have heard it said that a man can put nearly an inch in his height by staying in bed for a couple of days and wear while taking several hot baths, but I have never seen the thing tried. The average morning and evening variation I have found by a good deal of experimenting on myself and others to be a little less than half an inch."

### Chance for Choice.

"There are several routes for the canal across the Isthmus of Panama, I understand."

"Yes, Uncle Sam can take his pick and then shovel his way across."—N. Y. Journal.

### Quite Likely.

Ho—Handsome woman, that Maj. Dodd's wife; but what loud gowns she wears!

She—I suppose because the major is so shockingly deaf, you know.—Harlem Life.

### Johnny's Mistake.

"Well, Johnny, do you feel proud of being an uncle?"

"No, 'cause I ain't no uncle."

"Why not?"

"'Cause I'm an aunt. The new baby's a girl."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

### Smart Young Man.

"Now, Harry," asked the teacher of the juvenile class, "what is the meal we eat in the morning called?"

"Oatmeal," was the little fellow's prompt reply.—Tit-Bits.

### Explained.

Piper—Say, Muggsy, what's a statu quo, anyhow?

Muggsy—Why, dat's when you've got de jay down an' are sittin' on him.—Philadelphia North American.

### A Rude Awakening.

Wife—John, I wish you would let me have \$50 this morning.

Husband—My dear, you must have dreamed that I married an heiress. Didn't you?—Louisville Commercial.

### BANKING IN SWITZERLAND.

It Ordinarily Takes But Fifteen Minutes to Make a Deposit if You Are Lucky.

Some Swiss methods are sufficiently antiquated, according to our standards. For instance, it requires 15 minutes in which to make a deposit at a bank, says the Chicago Record.

or is expected to sit quietly and cultivate a spirit of patience while the machinery is getting under way.

A customer who wishes to make a deposit goes to a window and hands in his money, together with a memorandum of the amount. The employee behind the railing counts the money and prepares a receipt for it, adding his signature by way of preliminary.

Then a small boy takes this receipt upstairs and submits it to an official, who studies it and then ponders for a while as to whether it will be safe to take the money. If he decides that the bank can undertake the risk he passes the receipt to another man, who prepares a duplicate slip and makes several entries, and finally signs his name.

Then, as soon as another man has examined the receipt and added his name, it is taken downstairs and handed to the depositor. There is one satisfaction—the money is thoroughly deposited.

An American residing in Zurich went to the bank the other day with a check which had been given to him by a business man in a large town near by. He landed in the check, and 20 minutes later received his money, less 14 cents charges. The American was well known at the bank, having been a depositor for about two years. He had indorsed the check.

A busy and nervous Chicago man would have torn down the railing before the 20 minutes expired.

### FRENCH FEMINE FENCERS.

There is a Possibility That the Women of the Regency May Be Revived.

American women have never taken up fencing with the enthusiasm shown by English and French women, and feminine duellists in our country will doubtless continue to choose tongues as weapons; but there have been wild rumors that feminine skill with the foil, in France, would lead to a revival of the times of the regency, when bona fide duels between women were no uncommon occurrence.

Only a few weeks ago two fair Parisians, says the New York Sun, not averse to notoriety, arranged a meeting, but friends persuaded them to settle the quarrel and call the duel off, much to the regret of scandal lovers. Many French women are expert fencers, and in London the fad has been encouraged by the swiftest set. A really swifter feminine duel would be a new sensation in society. It would be romantic and becoming, for nothing shows off the figure to such advantage as fencing. Then the possibilities in dueling costumes are most enticing. By all means, let us fight duels.

The results need be no more serious than in modern "honorable encounters" between French deputies; and the affairs would be chic and picturesque in the extreme. But in the feminine duel the audience must not be limited to seconds and physicians. One should make a social function of it, and relieve the tedium of afternoon teas and receptions. There would be but one objection to the new fad. Its advertising possibilities are so superb that the dramatic profession would rush into it with mad fervor, and the fad, instead of the combatants, would be run into the ground.

## RIGHT WAY TO TAKE A BATH

Stationary Bath Tubs Are by No Means Absolutely Necessary. What It Is to Be Clean.

Most of us fail to understand the first principles of bathing. The Greeks and Romans as nations kept cleaner than we do, and perhaps the responsibility for this lies with the stationary bathtub. The tub may also be accountable for the fact that most of us don't know how to bathe, though the race has been washing itself with more or less assiduity since B. C.

Americans have come to regard as a necessity the bathtub, with its hot and cold water faucets. Unless it is at hand the needed bath is generally indefinitely postponed.

This was shown during the war, when the volunteers—especially those at Camp Alger, where there were few streams or pools—accustomed to the luxurious bathtub, abandoned bathing altogether and washed only their hands and faces. The pails and tin wash basins did not appeal to them as a means of washing in "the altogether."

But there were other soldiers who used basin or pail once a day, and by taking a sponge bath kept as clean as they ever were in their lives. Some of them were cleaner, because in their customary morning "dips" they had never got really washed.

There are two sorts of bathing—for pleasure and for cleanliness. The commonest form of washing for pleasure is the cold morning plunge. This instantaneous method is a pleasant way of waking up the nerves—some people prefer to lie in bed and allow them to wake up gradually, but it is not washing. A pin or a whiplash used every morning would accomplish the same re-

sultants in removing dirt; the difference is in the manner of using them.

The Turkish bath advocate would have us believe that one must perspire just previously to washing, thus leaving the pores open in order to get all dirt out of them. This is a mistaken idea, because a normally active person perspires through the day from exercise, which thus performs all the functions of the steamroom in a Turkish bath. Such a one requires no elaborate bathing arrangements; he only needs to wash all over with soap and water and to rub briskly off with a towel.

In the Turkish bath there is often too much rubbing. We can rub the skin for hours and all the time the small particles of skin will come off. It is a popular impression that this skin is unclean, but the skin consists of many thin layers, and it is easy to rub off the healthy skin as well as that which is dead.

If a person wishes to be as clean as possible he evidently should bathe every day, for there is no intermission in the wearing off of the skin, and no day passes without some oil appearing on the surface.

Here again the Turkish bath and the stationary bathtub tend to engender bad habits, for the former is weakening if taken oftener than once a week and the bathtub is seldom used more frequently than that for the purpose of taking a thorough wash with soap. When the bath is taken there is an accumulation of seven days' perspiration and dead skin on the surface of the body.



A QUICK AND SENSIBLE BATH.

suit, though not so agreeably. The pinprick would also be almost as cleansing as the momentary touch of the water that goes with a morning dip.

The Turkish and Russian baths are not entirely bathing for pleasure; they make the body clean enough, but use of them is a waste of time and money because a person in good health can keep the skin in proper condition and never go near a steam room. To spend several hours a week in being washed is indeed the excess of luxury, and as such is a legitimate pleasure perhaps. The habit of a Turkish bathhouse, however, contracts the dangerous opinion that he needs steam heat and a man to rub him in order to get clean. This results in great personal discomfort and often in a sadly unwashed condition when there are no Turkish baths in the neighborhood.

In discussing bathing for cleanliness we must first know what it is "to be clean." When one understands something about the skin one will accept no excuse for uncleanness in a person, living in a civilized community, for the simplest means accomplish the most satisfactory results in cleansing the skin.

Filth in body, like the universe of the ancients, consists of two things. Its elements are oil and dead skin. As the snake, a human being sheds his skin once or twice a year, but he shuffles it off gradually. This old skin, together with the oily matter known as perspiration in polite society, decomposes if left on the body—then the skin is dirty.

The problem of keeping clean is simple enough—keep the surface of the body as free as may be from the oil that comes through the pores every day and from the dead skin that is constantly forming.

This may be done thoroughly only by the use of a combination of soap, water and friction. There are no two opinions regarding these necessary con-

ditions. While, of course, the bathtub can be used for the purpose of having a genuine wash every morning, it is quite unnecessary and a dangerous temptation to "dipping" without washing. There is also an objection to it on account of the health, because when we use it the feet always touch the water before the head does. This causes the blood to rush away from the feet instead of from the head, and is not a pleasant way of waking up the nerves, being apt to produce headache.

The mode of bathing for cleanliness, that is nearly ideal, as it is most effective, calls for only a sponge and a cheap tin basin, used every morning.

If everybody appreciated the fact that there is within easy reach of the poorest person the complete means of performing as healthful and effective ablutions as the millionaire, there would be a greater number of thoroughly washed people in civilized communities. No excuse for an ill-smelling person will pass, for no matter how limited a man's income or how inconvenient his quarters, he can procure a tin pan or basin of water and a sponge. With these and a bar of soap he may take a thorough wash every morning and he could not do more toward getting himself clean if he had a marble bath tub.

The water for the bath should be as cold as one can stand without being unpleasantly shocked. Cold water used with soap is quite as cleansing as warm water and more refreshing. Some skins, however, are more sensitive than others, and very cold water should not be used on them.

Standing in his pan of water a man can go over his body very quickly and thoroughly with a sponge and soap and afterwards a coarse towel, thus removing all the past day's uncleanness. There is nothing else to be done. The most elaborate bathing does no more, only takes much longer.

DANIEL CLEVELAND.